

## Green Purchasing POC x2444

Green purchasing or affirmative procurement is the practice of buying items that are made with recycled content or bio-based contents. The federal government, through the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act 6002 and Executive Order 13101, requires federal agencies to purchase certain designated items with recycled content. **This is not a recommendation to buy recycled it is a requirement.**

EPA is required to designate products that are or can be made with [recovered materials](#), and to recommend practices for buying these products. Once a product is designated, [procuring agencies](#) are required to purchase it with the highest recovered material content level practicable.

Why is buying recycled products important?

Buying recycled-content products ensures that the materials collected in recycling programs will be used again in the manufacture of new products. The federal government in EO 13101 has stated that it is the responsibility of

What types of items are covered under affirmative procurement requirements?

Paper and Paper Products	Plastic Pipe and Fittings	Picnic Tables
Binders, Clipboards	Lubrication Oils	Playground Equipment
Office Recycling Containers	Carpet and Floor Tile	Park Benches
Waste receptacles	Running Tracks	Garden and Soaker Hoses
Plastic Desktop Accessories	Playground Surfaces	Concrete/Cement
Toner Cartridges	Hydraulic Mulch	Manual-grade Strapping
Printer Ribbons	Yard Trimming Compost	Industrial Drums
Plastic Trash Bags	Awards and Plaques	Patio Blocks
Plastic Envelopes	Insulation Products	Signage
Tires	Railroad Grade Surfaces	Traffic Delineators
Engine Coolant	Structural Fiberboard	Pallets
Sorbents	Geotextiles	Mats
Laminated Paperboard	Traffic Cones and Barriers	Plastic Fencing
Carpet cushion/padding	Parking Stops	Lawn and Garden Edging

<http://www.epa.gov/cpg/index.htm>

What if the commodity is overpriced?

DOD has allowed three exemptions for not buying products that contain recycled content. These three exemptions are:

1. The product does not meet applicable standards of use. Certain engine call for certain oil types that may not be available as a re-refined product, etc.
2. The product is grossly overpriced compared to other non-green versions
3. The product can't be purchased in a sufficient quantity to meet time based needs.